

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 IO-13 OMB-01 /084 W

-----111808 011057Z /10

R 010552Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 930

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0777

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PEPR, LE, SA

SUBJECT: THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE (ADF) IN LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 416

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR ASKED DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ABDUL RAHMAN AL MANSOURI ON JANUARY 31 WHETHER SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT EXTENSION OF ADF IN LEBANON AFTER CURRENT EXTENSION EXPIRES ON APRIL 28. HE EXPLAINED THAT COMMANDER OF ADF THOUGHT THAT HE NEEDED AT LEAST ANOTHER SIX MONTHS AFTER APRIL 28. HE ASKED ALSO IF SAG WAS PREPARED TO LEAVE SAUDI CONTINGENT IN ADF.

2. MANSOURI SAID THAT PROBLEM OF ADF WAS BOTH FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL. KUWAIT, QATAR AND SAUDI ARABIA ARE THE STATES SUPPORTING THE ADF. THE FIRST TWO ARE RELUCTANT
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TO EXPEND MORE MONEY ON ADF. IN ADDITION, THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE SITUATION IN LEBANON RESOLVED AND ADF REPLACED BY LEBANESE FORCES. SAG WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE QUESTION RESOLVED AND ADF REPLACED, BUT IF GOL FEELS NECESSITY OF HAVING ADF EXTENDED, SAG WOULD PROBABLY BE SYMPATHETIC. SAG RECOGNIZES THAT ADF IS SYRIAN AFFAIR AND THAT SAUDI AND SUDANESE FORCES ARE ONLY SYMBOLIC. HOWEVER,

SAUDI ARABIA WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE LEBANON LEFT ALONE
WITH SYRIAN TROOPS.

3. MANSOURI ALSO SAID THAT SAG WOULD
PREFER TO HAVE DECISION TO EXTEND ADF TAKEN BY ARAB LEAGUE,
RATHER THAN BY PARTICIPATING STATES. IF GOL WANTS EXTEN-
SION, IT WILL MOST PROBABLY MAKE SECRET APPROACH TO SAG
BEFORE ARAB LEAGUE MEETING IN MARCH. KUWAIT WILL
ALMOST CERTAINLY OPPOSE EXTENSION. SAUDI ARABIA WILL BE
FLEXIBLE. IN FACT, HE SAID THAT PRINCE SAUD AND HE WOULD
TRY TO GO TO MEETING WITH ONLY THE INSTRUCTION TO BE
FLEXIBLE SO THAT THEY CAN PUSH FOR COMPROMISE THAT INCLUDES
EXTENSION. QATAR WILL BE NO PROBLEM AND CAN BE BROUGHT
ALONG BY SAUDI ARABIA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARABS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA00777
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780047-1246
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802107/aaaadmso.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e07108ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BEIRUT 416
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3445329
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE (ADF) IN LEBANON
TAGS: PINS, PEPR, LE, SA, (AL MANSOURI, ABDUL RAHMAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e07108ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014